

## ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

A method for a user's mobile client computer to update its configuration specification involves receiving an e-mail from an administrator containing location settings encoded in an attachment, opening the attachment to the e-mail, and writing location values corresponding to the location settings encoded in the attachment into the configuration specification of the computer. In the preferred embodiment, the e-mail includes a designation of a location name corresponding to the configuration specification. In the e-mail attachment, the location settings are generically defined so as to apply to a variety of operating systems. The user's mobile client application determines an operating system type for the computer, and generates the location values by interpreting the location settings for the operating system type for the computer. The interpretation of the generic location settings to produce the location values involves referring to program logic which translates the location settings into location values as a function of the operating system type for the computer. The location settings which may be specified according to the present invention includes internet settings, such as internet protocol address, a domain name server configuration, a gateway, and a WINS configuration, and further include dialing settings or local area network settings. According to another aspect, an administrator application provides a user's client computer with configuration settings. The administrator application specifies a location name for the user's client computer. The administrator application further creates an e-mail addressed to the user having the location settings encoded in an attachment, and the administrator application sends the e-mail to the user.